

"To meet men," she says.

I smile and fight off the urge to jerk the car into an oncoming Peterbilt.

TWIN WEBERS

Vince invites me to his place for a bonfire
He's got this huge pile of rubbish
what passes for rubbish here
tree tailings, etc.
He's got this girlfriend with tacky hair and
an incredible body
rare in these parts
And he's got a pit bull named Mau Mau
So I go

Vee's asked me to bring my Weber
He's going to do a turkey and a ham

I get there early
And we set up the Webers

Vee takes a shower
So I play with Mau
scratch his tummy
as if he's a parakeet
instead of some snarling version of Vee's id

The people begin to arrive
There's a guy with a bad limp
A familiarly off-center group (family?)
from Port Townsend
And a former King County cop
who's surveying things almost as
pathologically as I am

I know from experience
these people are all big beer drinkers
but beer is too slow for me
So I've brought a plastic jug of
rum and fruit juice for me
so I can keep up with the game

And I do, actually
I exchange small talk with the gimp
I'm almost chatty with the bulimic
bartendress from the Lucky Logger
And I get into an all-too-familiar boogaloo
with the ex-cop about serial killers
Turns out he was on the Bundy
and Green River cases

And as I display my expertise in these matters
he becomes a pro
and I feel the bright light in my eyes
So I shift and look at the softball game going on in
Vee's pasture

I consider getting in the game
When suddenly Mau gets into it with
the white Husky the bulimic bartendress
has brought as her escort
Mau has this white idiot by the rear left leg
and isn't about to let go
I glance at the twin Webers
venting little smoke plumes
as the softball game breaks up

This is real sport
These two dogs going at it
Mau Mau is on automatic pilot and
the Husky is this pathetic prop
Vince is digging it but
being the perfect host
shouts a clipped "Mau Mau! Off!"
Bulimic is doing a silent horror thing
and the rest of us are
making silent wagers

Vee finally turns the hose on the dogs
But it's beyond the hose solution

The brawny Coast Guard (drunk)
(did I mention him?)
steps in and grabs Mau by the scruff of his neck
and pulls him off the Husky
Vee's primacy is briefly in dispute

The ex-cop and I have just observed the whole scene
actually observed each other observing the scene
and the bulimic bartendress takes her gimpy Husky away

Later, other people arrive
and the dogfight is recalled
Mau Mau smiles like nothing at all went down
and Vince gives the cold shoulder to
the girlfriend with the incredible body
and the stupid hair

The bonfire never does get lit
But I do